

APPENDIX D

HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSES TO DECLINING PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

In order to fully understand the past and current court and community collaboration activities in the State of California, the task force consulted many sources. Supplemental information to that provided in the body of the report is included as follows:

- Part 1 provides a summary of court programs identified in the 1994 Report to the Judicial Council, *Report on Public Information and Education Plan for the California Courts*; and community outreach activities carried out, until recently, by the State Bar of California;
- Part 2 provides a summary of the information on Judicial Council and Administrative Office of the Courts activities that was presented to the task force.

PART 1: 1994 JUDICIAL COUNCIL REPORT

A. Court Activities

The 1994 summary of California programs to improve public understanding of the courts and the law mentioned the following types of programs operating in 1994:

General-Population Programs

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| • Law Day | • Mock Trial/YMCA Program/Moot Court |
| • Videotapes | • Classes visiting courts/judges visiting schools |
| • Pamphlets | • Juvenile Jury Program |
| • Speakers Bureaus | • Shadow Program |
| • Meet Your Judges | |
| • Public Information Offices | |
| • Televised Forums on Public Affairs | |

AOC Programs

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| • News releases | • Other Judicial Council publications: |
| • Answering Public inquiries | 1. Annual reports |
| • Supreme Court tours | 2. "State Court Outlook" |
| • Judicial Council information booth at State Bar and California Judges Association annual meetings | 3. "Long-Range Strategic Plan" |
| • "Guide to California Courts" booklet | 4. Other reports, pamphlets, videos prepared as part of ongoing work of council committees and staff in specific subject areas |
| • Press kit | |

Student Programs

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| • Mock Trial/YMCA Program/Moot Court | • Citizenship and Law Related Education Center |
| • Law Works | |
| • Classes visiting courts/judges visiting schools | |
| • Courthouse tours | |
| • Juvenile Jury Program | |
| • Monroe High School/Los Angeles Municipal Court partnership | |
| • Shadow Program | |

- Teen Court Program
- Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center
- Street Law
- Constitutional Rights Foundation
- Adopt-A-School Program
- Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association (SCALA) and Mexican American Lawyers Association “Blue Car Project”

Court Volunteer Programs for the Public

- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Information booth/visitor information clerk
- Court tour guide/judiciary tour guide

Of significant note is the absence on this list of citizen advisory panels or other court outreach programs in which information and perspectives are solicited from the public in a dialogue for court learning.

B. Outreach Activities of the State Bar of California

The State Bar of California has engaged in the following kinds of court community outreach programs.

Office of Communications and Public Education

- Public service announcement about jury service
- 26-minute documentary, “Juries on Trial,” being aired on public broadcast stations and made available to courts for educating jurors
- Brochure dispelling jury service myths and glossary of legal terms (in production)
- Outreach to school age youth (in design phase, would welcome collaboration with Judicial Council)

Office of Research and Board Committees on Courts and Legislation

- Pro per forums: collaborative effort to address crisis of legal representation in family law
- Encouraging pro bono work: Judicial Council/State Bar collaboration to broaden access to the courts by unrepresented low and middle-income persons
- Jury Service Improvement Project: active State Bar collaboration with the Judicial Council Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury Service Improvement

- Alternative dispute resolution pamphlet “You Don’t Have to Sue,” produced in collaboration with the Judicial Council
- Mediation Week: activities sponsored by the State Bar in cooperation with local bars

<i>Office of Bar Relations</i>

- Diversity on the Bench Project: In collaboration with the Judicial Council, encouraging diversity in the judicial applicant pool to increase minority and women attorneys' awareness of judgeship opportunities and stimulate their interest in applying for judicial office.

PART 3: INFORMATION ON CURRENT JUDICIAL COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Access and Fairness

Task force members received copies of several Judicial Council reports, including:

- *1996 Achieving Equal Justice for Women and Men in the California Courts: Final Report of the Judicial Council of California Advisory Committee on Gender Bias in the Courts*
- *1996 Gender and Justice: Implementing Gender Fairness in the Courts: Implementation Report of the Judicial Council Access and Fairness Advisory Committee - Gender Fairness Subcommittee*
- *Final Report of the California Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Court*

Hon. Fred Horn, Chair of the Access & Fairness Committee, and Ms. Arline Tyler, Staff Coordinator, presented information about the history and work of the committee and its subcommittees on race and ethnic fairness, gender fairness, sexual orientation fairness, access to the courts for persons with disabilities, and education and implementation. The task force viewed portions of the newly developed video on access for persons with disabilities.

Judicial Education

Because much of the work of the Access & Fairness Committee has been incorporated into the training programs produced by CJER, the task force also heard presentations by Hon. Ernie Borunda, Chair of the CJER Governing Board, and Ms. Cathy Lowe, Director, CJER, about the work of the governing committee and the variety of programs that are offered annually for judicial and court staff education. The focus of the CJER presentation was diversity and fairness education. The presentation informed the task force about the Chief Justice's initiative calling on all judicial officers and staff in California to participate in diversity and fairness training. It emphasized that access and education are two of the overarching goals of the Judicial Council's long-range strategic plan that diversity and fairness are incorporated in all CJER training programs; and that CJER is preparing courses on the fairness issues of sexual orientation, domestic violence, and sexual harassment prevention. The CJER representatives previewed portions of the new "Fairness in the Workplace" course and video for the task force.

Public Information

A representative from the AOC's Public Information Office provided the task force with information on the goals and activities of the unit. The goals of the Public Information Office are to establish methods for early, direct, and clear communications with the news media and the public through the Judicial Council

and to keep the courts informed about the council's actions that affect the entire court system. It produces publications to inform the public and the judiciary about key issues facing the court system and important Judicial Council project designed to improve state court administration.

Juror Service and Education

A Blue Ribbon Commission on Jury System Improvement reported to the Judicial Council in 1996. The commission reached broad conclusions about areas in which court services to juries could be improved. Based on the commission's findings and the personal knowledge of task force members, the task force discussed the following ideas:

- Jurors need better information about what their role is, what they do, how important it is, and what services are available to them; and
- Jurors (especially those who are waiting in jury assembly rooms to be called) are a captive audience for general legal system education, who then can become ambassadors to their families, friends, and communities.

Drug Courts

Staff to the Oversight Committee for the California Drug Court Project provided an overview of the committee's goals and activities. The primary goal of the California Drug Court Project is to encourage the development of drug courts in California by providing funding and professional support. In particular, the project seeks to encourage: (1) new drug courts by providing start-up funding to allow jurisdictions to begin a new drug court; (2) expanded drug courts by providing funding to allow currently existing programs to expand services to specific target populations; and (3) innovative programs by providing funding to attempt an innovative approach to drug courts, such as focusing on unique target populations or treatment methodologies.

Center for Children and the Courts

A representative from the Center for Children and the Courts provided an overview of the Center's goals and activities. The goal of the center is to maximize the effectiveness of court services for children and families, implement innovative court-related programs for children and families, and promote those services in the legal community and to the public. Through the Center for Children and the Courts, the AOC administers the CASA project, the JRTA project, the Court Improvement project, the Child Advocacy Training project, the AB 1058 project, and the Family Assessment Intervention and Resource (FAIR) project.